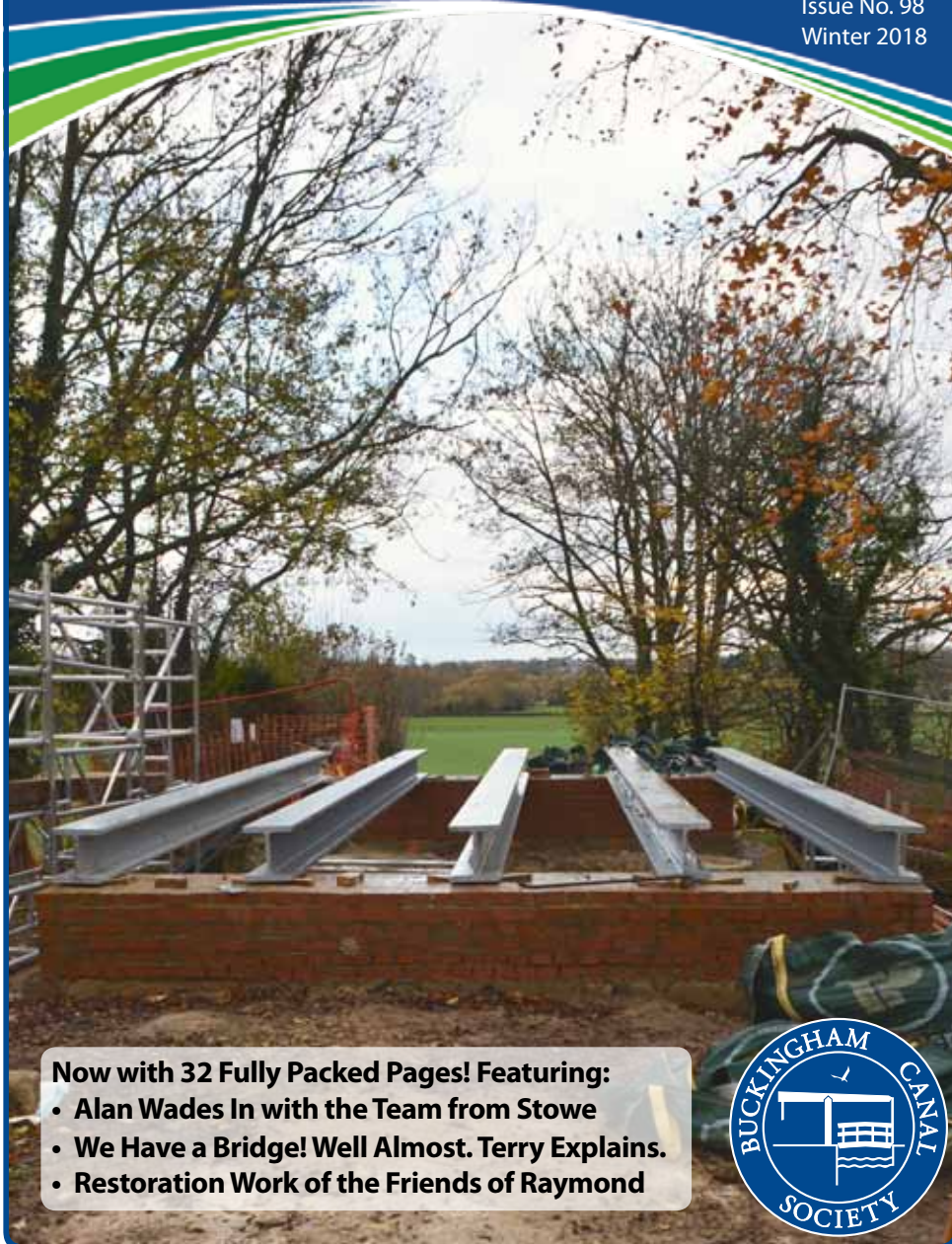


THE BUCKINGHAM NAVIGATOR

The Newsletter of Buckingham Canal Society

Registered Charity No. 1156662

Issue No. 98
Winter 2018



Now with 32 Fully Packed Pages! Featuring:

- Alan Wades In with the Team from Stowe
- We Have a Bridge! Well Almost. Terry Explains.
- Restoration Work of the Friends of Raymond



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Buckingham Canal Society's work to restore the waterway to Buckingham

Please re-use this publication which incorporates a variety of information about some of our activities, to promote the work of the Buckingham Canal Society to a friend / neighbour / colleague / relative or other interested people.

Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2018 edition of The Buckingham Navigator!

With so many important activities, stories and features to convey to you, our readers, we have taken the opportunity to expand the newsletter to 32 fully packed pages from this edition onwards. It was proving difficult at times to fit everything in to 28 pages without compromising somewhere. Part of the reason for this was the need to feature our most recent Funders separately and to also create a new Corporate & External Volunteer Groups listing in a similar fashion. Furthermore, the Funders listing will also act as a companion to our now regular feature, The Quarterly Grants Update, headed up by Colin Levett. I hope you enjoy this new and improved issue!



We also welcome Rob Morris as our new Chairman, taking the place of Anthony Smith-Roberts, who will still continue in his other roles. We also sadly say goodbye to Jim McIlroy, who has decided with heavy heart to step down as Trustee and Archivist. Alan Mynard has now taken up the mantle of looking after our archives.

As this is unavoidably a little later than planned, I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and an enjoyable start to the new year!

Thank you to all the contributors. Cover photo of Bridge No.1's new beams © Terry Cavender. **Why not drop me an email about what you enjoyed in this issue, and furthermore, why not contribute ideas or articles for future editions (see page 31). Please visit our website at: www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk. While you are online, why not also follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/buckinghamcanalsociety and please "Like" us.** Thank you.

Ian Matson
Editor

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Restoration Site Update



© Alan Mynard

© Alan Mynard

As you may be aware, the National Trust has a team of full time staff based at Stowe tasked with restoring and looking after the gardens, monuments, lakes and streams. They are allowed off site several times a year to aid the local community, and this year they volunteered to spend one of those days with BCS. We put their experience of wading around in water to good use at Bourton Meadow.

The Work Party End of Year Round Up

Once again I would like to thank all of our Buckingham Canal Society (BCS) volunteers who have helped us throughout the year. Without your help, none of the practical tasks would have taken place! As mentioned in previous editions of the newsletter, the extra help given to us this year by various external organisations and Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) has been invaluable, and is one of the main reasons we have been able to progress the restoration work on the Buckingham Canal so far.

Thanks go to WRG's Bit In The Middle (BITM), WRG London and the Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group (KESCRG) for their help. I would also like to thank all the external organisations who have joined us. These included Santander, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), Network Rail, Vinci Technology Centre UK, and Stowe House. Several joined us for two or even three days this year! Thanks also go to Milton Keynes College students for their work on the bridge at Cosgrove and to Stowe School's Duke of Edinburgh Award students who spent two days with us working on the towpath at Cosgrove.

Any extra help is always welcome so if you know of a company wanting to do a volunteering or community day next year, please let me know using my contact details on page 30.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

The National Trust Wades in

Whilst most of our restoration efforts are currently directed at Cosgrove and Bridge No.1, it's important that we do not forget our other sites along the full route of the Buckingham Canal. There is still regular maintenance to perform so that we ensure our efforts of the previous years are not lost, and nowhere is this more important than at Bourton Meadow, which is situated at the Buckingham end. Being easily accessible to local residents as part of the Ouse Valley Way, it is a well visited site and particularly favoured by dog walkers. We have to keep the footpath clear and ensure that the canal itself looks good and showcases what the Society can achieve.

A local lady called Ruth and her husband have volunteered to do some regular pruning and tidying – say hello if you see them at work. But sometimes we need to put in additional effort to tackle the bigger issues. In August we had a small group of National Trust employees from Stowe come along and join us for a day, getting to places that others fear to tread!

It seems like only last year that we lined and re-watered this section of canal, but it was actually five years ago that most of the work was performed, with follow-up work taking place in 2015. Since then the site has been maturing and now requires regular tending

in order to keep it looking good. As you can see from the photos, since we first watered this section of canal the waterway and the banks have matured considerably. As part of the restoration work we planted many hundreds of native water plants, and these have become well established. There is also a lot of growth, particularly in the form of bull rushes and other reeds, that we did not plant. We suspect that these have grown from seeds and other plant remains that were in the soil we dredged out of the channel and deposited on top of the liner to form the bed. This has spread out from the banks into the main canal channel, so much so, that at some points you can hardly see the water!

Our National Trust group had a great time wading into the canal itself and helping to clear the channel. The reeds, not being planted as such, are fairly easy to pull out once you get to them. But they are wet and heavy to lug around. They have to be thrown up onto the bank and then wheelbarrowed away to form piles at the end of the section where they will rot down over time.

The task was made slightly easier by the water level being about a foot lower than it could be – that's 30cm for our younger readers! The canal is fed from a solar powered pump that extracts water from the River Great Ouse. But this extraction only takes place when there is sufficient water in the river itself. The combination of the very dry summer we have had and the well publicised pollution incident that happened in the river in early July means we have not been able to keep the canal topped up as far as it will go. As the autumn and winter weather moves in, there should hopefully be more water available again.

During the course of the day, the National Trust team cleared part of the most overgrown section around the spill weir. **There's still plenty more to do, so more work parties are required. Anyone fancy walking in the canal?**



©Alan Mynard

Alan Mynard

Trustee, Website Administrator and Archivist

Do You Dig Canals?...We Do!



Work parties are held every other Thursday and the second Sunday of each month and are always friendly, welcoming and very rewarding.

If you would like to become involved, please contact me using my contact details on page 30.

In addition, work party dates can be found on page 29, and more detailed information about these and extra curricular dates can be found by visiting our work parties web page at: www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/events-and-news/work-parties/

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Health & Safety Refresher

Buckingham Canal Society (BCS) has a duty of care to its members, volunteers and the public to comply with the Health & Safety legislations in place. BCS operates work parties under terms of Insurance provided through the Inland Waterways Association (IWA). As a part of this arrangement, we work within many of the principles and methods of Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) as well as some specific Canal & River Trust (CRT) guidance.

All work party volunteers need to be aware of WRG's Site Health & Safety video and their accompanying Volunteers' Health & Safety Guide booklet, which was recently revised in 2013. We ask that you please take some time to review the WRG Health & Safety material on a regular basis, for your and your team's safety and peace of mind. This is especially important when working on a site involving construction machinery (plant), as it is a requirement to confirm that you have reviewed this material within the 12 months prior to the event.

We would also ask all those new volunteers who haven't yet done so, to pre-read all of the WRG Health & Safety material before their first day on site. You will always be given a Health and Safety briefing at any work party, but pre-reading can speed things up. Please bear in mind that the WRG Health & Safety material is only an introduction to site safety, and does not remove the need for any volunteer to have a full briefing about a specific site or project.

To view the video and booklet, please visit our WRG Health & Safety Video web page at: www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk/wrg-health-safety-video/

Ian Matson
Editor

The Autumn Statement

Hello and welcome to my first talk in the Navigator.

Some of you may know that Jim McIlroy has had to sadly step down as a Trustee and our Society Archivist. This has also meant that he will be unable to continue with the seasonal Statement you have come to enjoy so much in each edition. Hopefully you will enjoy my work on this article, and I will hopefully bring my own personal twist to it too.

Additionally, some of you may know that I have recently been appointed as the Society's Chairman, taking over from the sterling work done by Anthony Smith-Roberts during his time in the role. So with all those that have preceeded me, I have some pretty big boots to fill.

It is hoped to use this section to keep you up to date with what is happening and answer your queries. But first a quick plea, if you love the canal and the restoration, please, please, please write and tell us so. Your support helps us with our work and is a great contribution to the aims of the society.



As can be seen on Facebook, the Society website, and in this publication, under the leadership and direction of Terry, the steel beams have been placed across the void at the location of Bridge No.1. This has given us the beginnings of a bridge, not that I would fancy walking across it just yet. As you can see, by the 10th November (opposite), it's come a long way since 6th September (above)!

We must, acknowledge the hard work carried out by Colin, or as he is referred to at trustee meetings, King Midas, for all his work on sourcing grants and completing the applications. We were unlucky not to secure a European Union biodiversity grant, but on a positive note, the feedback was really positive and encouraging for a future application.



The regular Thursday work parties are on-going with regular support from various corporate groups. There has been some sterling work by the college apprentices, with some excellent lime mortar pointing being done.

To be able to answer your queries and questions, we actually need some, so please, if there is something you want to know or just wondered about, then please, email me, or any of the trustees for my attention and I will endeavour to answer in the next Navigator.

Finally, I hope you and all your family will have had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rob Morris

Trustee and Chairman

BCS News

We've Moved!

The Buckingham Canal has moved...to the CRT Eastern Region. To be exact, as some of you will know, CRT have moved their boundary, and everything north of the Iron Trunk is now part of their Eastern Region.

So what? Well we have the privilege of a new management team in the Eastern Region. I went to meet some of them at their annual meeting in Leicester on 4th November. A site visit to Cosgrove will follow for their new Regional Director Phil, along with some of his team. We are already working well with their Health & Safety advisers and Volunteer Coordinators. So there's new faces, some new (different) paperwork, and some opportunities for BCS and CRT to help each other in different ways.

As the star rises in the east at this time of year, be it Jupiter or some other explanation, we wish season's greetings to our CRT partners in both our new and former regions.

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

Bridge No.1 - Gateway to Buckingham



As many of you know, the missing bridge at Cosgrove has been quite literally the blocker to the restoration and navigation of the Buckingham Canal. So after much musing, talking, and contemplation, the trustees agreed we had to replace the former bridge to remove the blockage in order to open the canal. The journey has been “long, with many a winding turn” as the song goes but on the weekend of 10th November 2018 we achieved a milestone when the steel beams for the structure were put in place now the design had been finalised and approved.

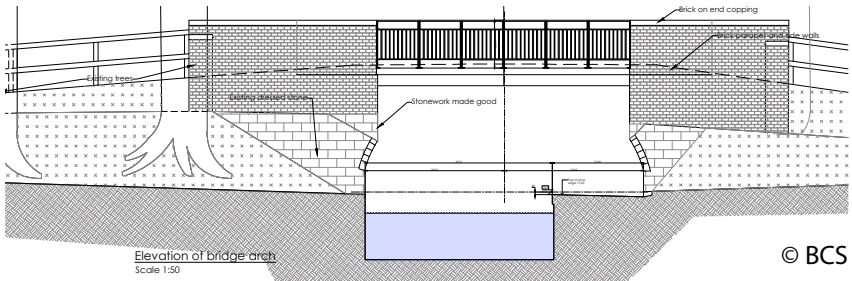
Originally, the thought was a brick arch built on the remains. However, heritage advice was to the contrary, and so a modern flat deck bridge has been designed. The steel beams form a core element of this and will have concrete beams and blocks laid upon them. Then a concrete and steel mesh road surface will go on top with containment kerbs. We will then add the parapet walls and fencing as well as balustrades. All of that over the coming months, subject to the unpredictable British weather. I’m as sure as ever that our amazing volunteer support will be way more reliable than our climate!

Once the bridge is operational, we have tasks to repair the canal bank & towpath, remove the farm crossings and remediate the handful of leaks. We can then complete the necessary stilling test (for water-tightness) and get ready to remove the bund/dam.

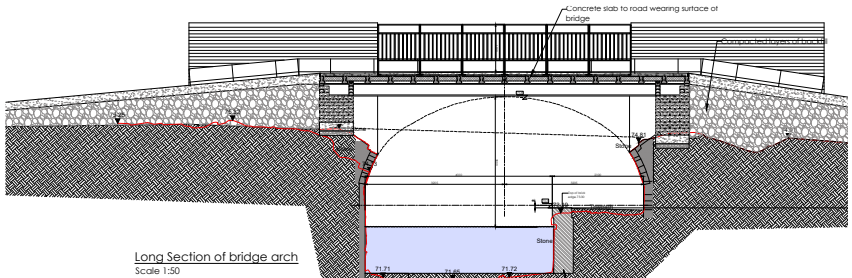
Pages 12-14 illustrate our progress since 7th September through to B Day (**see page 14**) on 10th November. A lot of progress in just two months! Page 13 illustrates the excellent bricklaying produced by WRG’s London branch (LWRG) and our team of volunteers over the weekend of 22nd-23rd September.

Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer



© BCS



For Discussion Only
Pending final review signoff

B.C.S.

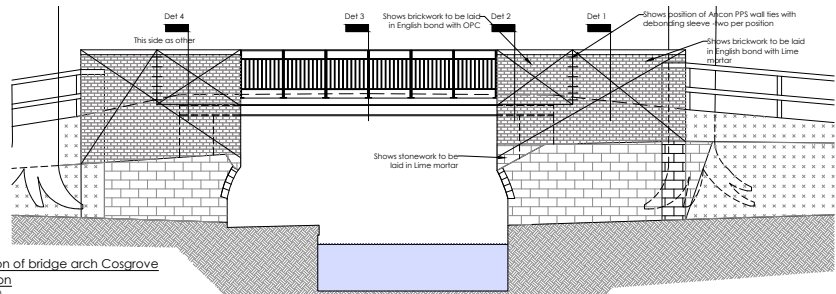
Brickwork to underside of sheet beams amended
Bridge sections amended to show structural steel details
Bridge amended to suit structural engineering prior design

6th Aug 2018
20th Aug 2018
10th Nov 2017

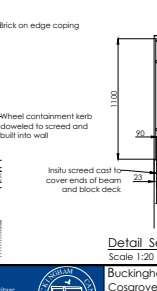
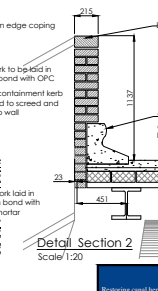
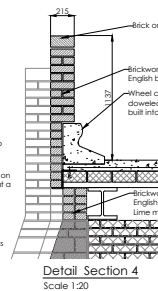
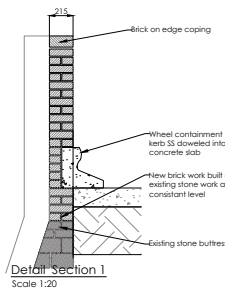


Buckingham Canal
Cosgrove Bridge
Date - April 2014

Cosgrove Bridge = CGB 002
Rev C
21st August 2018
Checked



© BCS



For Discussion Only
Pending final review signoff

B.C.S.

Detail 4 omitted, notes on OPC and Lime mortar added
Generally updated

13th Sept 2018
6th Aug 2018



Buckingham Canal
Cosgrove Bridge
Date - April 2014

Cosgrove Bridge = CGB 004
Rev B
21st September 2018
Checked



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B Day

On a day like today, thoughts turn to measures of scale and improbability; the capability of a few to have a vision to overcome “the impossible”. Yes it’s the day of B. B for Beams and B for Bridge and B for Buckingham.

As I pick up my wallet and bits from the chest of drawers, a poppy sits there and I am overwhelmed by the effect the war had on the canals and the canal had on the war. The Grand Union was, I am told, used as a strategic munition supply route between the Midlands and London during the second world war.

The arms, including the one to Buckingham, were dammed off to prevent water loss from bombing. The lock at Hyde Lane was used for practice bombing runs with practice (not live) bombs for crews to hone their skills for use in Europe. At the outbreak of the first world war in 1914, the agricultural labourers who had become weed cutters for the canal went off to battle and many of them never returned.

So as I take my medications, eat my breakfast, and prepare for B Day with Remembrance Day peeking over the diary page, it seems fitting for a moment of thanks to all who have made restoration possible through two world wars. And to those who have been involved with the restoration of the Buckingham Arm in whatever way as we approach another milestone towards an operational waterway.

A quote from Muhammad Ali feels fitting for all those who have aims and hopes, perhaps recognising in particular all who have looked the impossible in the face and blown it a metaphorical raspberry.

He stated that “Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they’ve been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It’s an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It’s a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing”.

Terry Cavender
Trustee and Executive Officer

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Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support our Society every time you shop, at no further cost to you. When you shop at www.smile.amazon.co.uk, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as at www.amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Buckingham Canal Society, your selected charity. So smile at our restoration work and please choose to support us so that one day, we will finally have something greater to smile about...a fully restored Buckingham Canal for all to enjoy!

BUCKINGHAM CANAL SOCIETY

AGM + CHEESE & WINE SOCIAL EVENING



SATURDAY 23rd MARCH 2019
BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE,
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**Learn about our landmark achievements, and take in
a fascinating talk by Bob Williams & Peter Buck from the
Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust:**

**'Where Are We Today With the
Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration?'**

Cheese, Wine and Light Refreshments Available

Meeting at 7.00pm

For more information, please contact Athina Beckett by

tel: 01908 661217

email: athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Please visit our website: www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk



Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1156662

Meet the Diggers

Early last year I suggested to Athina that we offered a guided walk for Heritage Open Days (HODs), culminating in a visit to the Bridge No.1 site in Cosgrove to “Meet the Diggers” – a play on words thinking of both our human and mechanical (Blue and Marigold) navvies.

A working party day was already planned during the HODs period, and a local historian was offering a village walk and display in the church on the same day, so I liaised with her so that the walk I was leading would end at the church at the appropriate time for her events. So with that, “Meet the Diggers” went into the 2017 HODs programme. The appointed day and time came, when Dave Humphries and I (after brushing up on the canal’s history in the Cosgrove area) were waiting by Lock Cottage...and no-one arrived!

Undeterred, when this year’s HODs dates were announced, I checked with Athina and a working party had been scheduled for the first weekend of HODs activities. There was also much more to see at Bridge No.1 than last year, so “Meet the Diggers” duly went into our 2018 programme.

In the past, HODs has been held over four days – Thursday to Sunday – but the event has proven so popular that people had been complaining that they couldn’t go to all the events they’d like. So this year the event was spread over two consecutive Thursday to Sunday periods, giving eight days for events and more opportunities for visitors.

Earlier this year, Dave had visited the CRT archive and came away with copies of some lovely old documents that he had printed out and laminated, which had previously been on display at the BCS Festival in July. Armed with these, we made our way to the canalside on the day and were delighted when nine people turned up!

They were told about the canal’s history, after which we crossed the lock and walked toward Bridge No.1 to see the re-watered stretch just beyond. Here, we looked across the fields at the ice house and the ruins of Cosgrove Hall, before returning to Bridge No.1 where Terry gave them a comprehensive talk about what was currently happening and what they will be able to see if they return in the future. Before leaving, they saw “the Diggers” in action, before walking back across the lock, where our visitors asked plenty of questions and enjoyed looking at Dave’s documents. I handed out the Ouse Valley Way walk leaflets, encouraging the visitors to head to the Buckingham end another day.

Heritage Open Days is a national event, and in 2019 it will be held over a continuous ten day period from Friday 13th September through to Sunday 22nd September. This means even more opportunities for visitors to see and learn about places they might not have otherwise been able to. **Our national website is: www.heritageopendays.org.uk, where you can use the Visit tab to search for events. There is also a dedicated local website for the greater Milton Keynes area at: www.mkheritageopendays.com. So put the dates in your diary, and from July start checking our websites to see what places you have the opportunity to visit and learn about. All events are free!**

Diane Sutton
BCS Member

Informative Talks & Guided Walks

More and More Groups Sign Up to Athina's Guided Walks

As most of you know, I give the talks for Buckingham Canal Society, but I can also arrange for a group walk along the canal, at either the Buckingham or Cosgrove end. This year I have arranged walks for several groups including Stowe, IWA Warwickshire Branch amongst others.

On Monday 22nd October I led a walk for a local group mainly based in Stony Stratford called the Splinter Group. With 16 people in attendance, we embarked on a five mile walk along the Ouse Valley, which also took us over the Iron Trunk Aqueduct and along the towpath at Cosgrove toward and over the lock gates, culminating in the first mile of the Buckingham Canal. This gave people a chance to see the work being carried out at Bridge No.1.

I also gave them a brief history of the canal and the future work being planned for the canal. I have now been asked to arrange a walk for the Buckingham end of the canal which should take place in Spring.



If any other group or society would like a similar walk, or even one at the Buckingham end, then please contact me using my contact on page 30.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

BCS Great Ouse River Trip

This year our annual boat trip took place on Saturday 30th September, and this event was a three hour trip along the River Great Ouse in Bedford with 31 members and friends who joined us for the afternoon. By request, this trip was a longer one, and by taking place in the afternoon it made a change from last year when we had a shorter morning only trip. As usual, food and drink was provided for the trip and I must thank Jonathan Brown for preparing the food for the day.



©Athina Beckett

Several new members joined us for the boat trip with some very recently joining using Golden Giving. Two ladies who described themselves as “armchair members” came up from London to join our party. This year’s trip proved to be a very sociable event. With an extended three hour journey on the John Bunyan trip boat and the good weather, this helped make it a very enjoyable afternoon for everyone on board, cruising various sections of the River Great Ouse.

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser

Excellent Boats on a Beautiful Canal

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Ringling the Swan's Neck



Nutfield in January 1969 in its relatively new Blue Line livery. Note the completed swan's neck in four colours. The working boatman steerer is Ernie Kendall, who despite the cold, is not wearing gloves. © Hugh McKnight

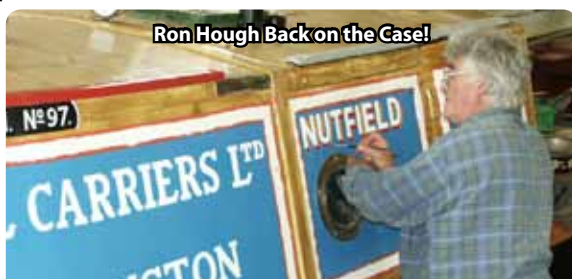
Few narrowboats – ancient or modern – receive the same loving care and attention as the former Blue Line pair of historic narrowboats, Nutfield & Raymond – owned and hands-on maintained by the Friends of Raymond (FoR). The head-turning pair is to be seen in the summer months attending rallies and events from Rickmansworth in the south to Alvecote, near Tamworth, in the north – always immaculately turned out and stealing the show. This is because, in addition to running repairs and maintenance, at the end of each busy season the boats return to their base at Braunston Marina for a

major overhaul in the large Victorian dry dock. Here a team of up to ten volunteers get stuck into the many things that require attention during a period of up to six days for each boat. The docks and moorings are provided free by Braunston Marina.

What may be considered very much the icing on the cake, and to be completed last, is the skilled task of repainting where needed, the cabins and counters in the traditional Blue Line livery. This is so the boats look exactly as they did in their working days in that fleet, which finished in October 1970.

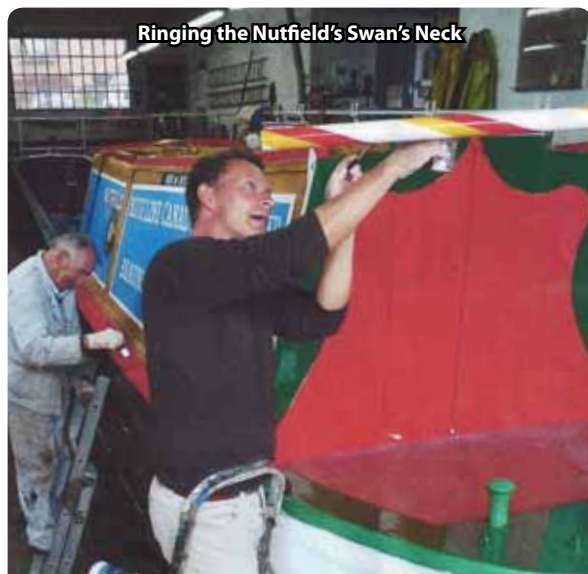
For the last four years, FoR have been fortunate to have as a relatively new member - Will Hewitt (45). Though now a professional gardener by trade, Will began his working life aged sixteen painting boats for his parents' Braunston based Union Canal Carriers (UCC) hire-fleet, and also skippering their fleet of camping and canal maintenance boats. (Founded in 1968, UCC has recently completed fifty years as a canal business.)

As a young man, Will was anxious to improve his skills as a sign-writer and decorator. He made a point of observing and working closely with the legendary Ron Hough (1934 - 2015), who would come to UCC's dry dock, above Braunston's Bottom Lock, as an



Painting Nutfield after it returned to Braunston Marina in 2002, having been acquired by a staff member Ian Mulley, who using Ron Hough's services, put the boat back into its Blue Line livery. In 2003 the Nutfield was acquired by the FoR, thanks in part to generous financial support from the late Peter Andrews. © Tim Coghlan

outside contractor to carry out those tasks. Will recalls, “At first Ron was reticent about giving his secrets away. I think he thought that narrowboat painting was not as difficult as it looked, and he didn’t want others to discover this! His own mentor Frank Nurser was much the same, and Ron could never paint in his way either. But Ron warmed to me, allowing me to fill-in sign writing, and painting roses and castles and the like – he having set them up for me in outline. Ron used to say, ‘Remember there is always someone better than you’. Then he would tell me that my letters needed more shading”.



Will Hewitt completing the third of the four bands of colour, with the darkest, the blue, still to come. The plan was to make the swan's neck look exactly like it did when the legendary painter Ron Hough painted the Nutfield in its new Blue Line livery in late 1968, after the narrowboat had been bought or leased (this is uncertain) by the canal carrier from the British Waterways Board. Another Friend of Raymond, Roger Golder is seen beyond painting the gunnel top. © Tim Coghlan

One trick Ron did teach Will was how to paint what is termed a “barber’s pole twist” to the swan’s neck – the traditional tiller on the motor-narrowboat. Once the tiller has been rubbed down and prepared in primer, and then gloss-painted overall in the lightest colour selected – here white, a piece of string is carefully wound around it, tensioned, and fixed at each end. Then the next colour – the second lightest, which in this case was yellow - is painted using the string as the outer marker. Then the string is removed and the other colours, in order of darkness, are painted by eye – red then blue. Nick Lake, membership secretary of FoR commented, “Will has a steady hand and the eye to work freehand. And he has the right brushes. We are very lucky to have him onboard”.

Will later went on to take a year’s course at the Walsall College of Commercial Arts. But his career as a narrowboat painter ended after he became asthmatic, probably because of both working in the damp conditions in the Bottom Lock dry dock in the middle of winter, and the high level of lead in the paints that were then still used. He has now been away from full time painting for fifteen years, but is enjoying getting back into it on a part-time basis. With lead banned from paints for some years now, his asthma has not come back. He now does the sign-writing for the Oxford based College Cruisers, as well as working elsewhere, including helping the canal-painter Dave Bishop who works out of Braunston Marina’s small dock, built in about 1792 – and still used for the same purposes. “I really love working in that dock. You can feel the history. That’s where Frank Nurser and the other greats worked. It’s where it all happened”.

Sheila Suchet Steering Nutfield in the Opening Parade of Boats at the 2018 Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally



Sheila's husband - the actor David Suchet CBE - is on Raymond, partly seen astern, on which he formally opened the Rally. Both Sheila and David are Vice-Presidents of the IWA. © Tim Coghlan

Will also puts to good use the skills he learned as a helmsman with the UCC camping boats, which used pairs of former working narrowboats in the old way. He is a regular steerer for the FoR as the boats move round the system during the summer months. This year he was chosen to help Sheila Suchet steer Nutfield - with Raymond steered by David Suchet in tow - for the opening of this year's Braunston Historic Narrowboat Rally. His combined skills as a painter and steerer were there for all to see.

The Friends of Raymond are a group of enthusiasts, formed in 1996, initially to save and restore the Raymond – the last wooden butty built for the English canals. Then in 2004 they acquired its last motor, the Nutfield, with which it was paired until canal carrying ceased in 1970.

The Friends of Raymond welcomes new members. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Membership Secretary Nick Lake at: membership@friendsofraymond.org.uk.

Tim Coghlan

Patron, Friends of Raymond and Managing Director, Braunston Marina

BCS Craft Group

As well as involving yourself in one of our work parties, attending our Society's Project Group, or even being part of our Committee, another way of helping BCS to raise funds is to join our Craft Group. Our group has gone from strength to strength, and continues to meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Nowadays, we get together either at my house in Pennyland, Milton Keynes or in Stony Stratford where we make rag rugs that can be sold on our bric-a-brac stall. We are a very friendly group and would welcome other like minded people interested in learning or teaching new crafts, or to simply join us for a very pleasant and sociable evening and discuss the various crafts that interest you. If anyone has any old T shirts (bright colours and black preferred), please save them as we can use them for the rag rug making. **If you would like to attend, please contact me using my contact details on page 30.**

Athina Beckett

Trustee, Volunteer Leader and Work Party Organiser



supporting



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Terry Cavender

Trustee and Executive Officer

The Quarterly Grants Update

Following our successful grant applications earlier this year, we have now been advised of some further grant awards.



The first was with the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust's Thriving Communities Fund. Through the Fund, they have donated £9,331.00 for the purchase of small items of mechanical plant such as strimmers and electric wheelbarrows. This equipment will help us maintain and continue to improve the canal.



Secondly, we have been chosen for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund, which is now open. Co-op members can choose to give 1% of their shopping spend to our cause when spent on selected own-brand products and services. In order to donate, you have to be a member of the Co-op. The funding period will run for twelve months until the 26th October 2019. **Please see the ad above or ask in store for further details.**



Finally, we have now been informed that we have been successful in our application to the Big Lottery Fund's Reaching Communities programme, and we now await official notification. This will provide us with £5,000.00 per annum for the next 5 years, which we will use to engage with the local community to publicise our work more widely, to evidence community support and to encourage active engagement.

To date in 2018, and as previously reported, we have also received the following grants:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) and their New Homes Bonus Micro Grant Funding Scheme: £1,000.00.
- Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation: £2,500.00.
- Heart of Bucks Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire and their Heart of Bucks General Fund: £2,390.23.
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation and their David Laing Family Fund: £2,797.20.
- Postcode Local Trust with funds from the People's Postcode Lottery: £19,581.00.
- Rectory Homes through Heart of Bucks Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire: £2,317.00.
- Tesco and their Bags of Help scheme at their Towcester branch: £1,000.00

All of the grants that have been awarded to us so far this year have now brought the total in raised in 2018 to over £50,000!

We are extremely grateful to all of our grant funders for helping to make the restoration a reality.

A complete list of our most recent funders can be found on page 26.

Colin Levett
Trustee and Grants Officer



Funders

We are very grateful for the financial support from all of our funders. In chronological order, below is a list of our most recent funders.

- Big Lottery Fund - Reaching Communities
- Co-op - Local Community Fund
- Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT) - Thriving Communities Fund
- Rectory Homes
- Postcode Local Trust
- Northamptonshire Community Foundation - David Laing Family Fund
- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation
- Heart of Bucks Community Foundation for Buckinghamshire - Heart of Bucks General Fund
- Tesco - Bags of Help
- Amazon - Smile
- LEADER
- Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Northampton Branch
- Adviza - Brighter Futures (Building Futures/Building Better Opportunities)
- European Social Fund (ESF)
- DHL UK Foundation - Match It!

Patrons, Partners & Supporters

We are very grateful for the continued support of our patrons:

- Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP
- Lord Boswell of Aynho

We have formal partnerships with the following:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)
- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)
- Buckingham Town Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC)
- Canal & River Trust (CRT)
- Deanshanger Parish Council
- Environment Agency (EA)
- Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Corporate Member
- Northamptonshire County Council (NCC)
- South Northamptonshire District Council

We are very grateful for the ongoing support of:

- Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Milton Keynes Branch
- Inland Waterways Association (IWA) Northampton Branch
- Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) and their regional volunteers

We have been recognised by the following:

- Cosgrove Parish Council
- Foscote Parish Meeting
- Maids Moreton Parish Council
- Old Stratford Parish Council
- Thornborough Parish Council
- Thornton Parish Meeting

Corporate Members

Braunston Marina



**Inland Waterways Association
Northampton Branch**



Lionhearts Cruising Club



Nikon Optical UK Ltd



Taverners Boat Club



The Wyvern Shipping Co Ltd



Corporate & External Volunteer Groups

We are very grateful to all of the organisations that have ever assisted us with their volunteer groups. In chronological order, below is a list of our most recent attendees.

- Network Rail
- London Waterway Recovery Group (LWRG)
- Santander
- Computacentre
- Stowe House
- Vinci Technology Centre UK
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)
- Stowe School
- Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) - Bit In The Middle (BITM)
- Trees for Cities
- Milton Keynes College
- Kent & East Sussex Canal Restoration Group (KESCRG)
- Argos
- Network Rail - Bletchley Maintenance
- Virgin Money UK
- Mayflex UK
- Community Payback - Buckingham
- Waitrose
- The MacIntyre Charity - Green Genies
- The Parks Trust Young Explorers
- NHBC
- G4S Secure Training Centre - Milton Keynes
- Tech Mahindra
- The Woburn Hotel
- Hewitson Moorhead
- Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) - Forestry
- Tearle & Carver - Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors
- Mace
- Explorer Scouts

Future Events

Tuesday 8th January 8.00pm

IWA Northampton

Talk: Canal Holidays in the 50s

- Roger Butler

The Walnut Tree Inn, 21 Station Road,
Blisworth, Northants, NN7 3DS
Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 17th January 7.30pm

IWA Milton Keynes

Talk: The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals

- Brian Nelson

Royal British Legion Hall, off Melrose Ave,
West Bletchley, Bucks, MK3 6PU
Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Thursday 31st January 7.30pm

BCS - Craft Group Meeting

2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK18 8AX
Details: 01908-661217

athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Tuesday 12th February 8.00pm

IWA Northampton

Talk: Overnight Mooring...21 years On!

- Mike Partridge

The Walnut Tree Inn, 21 Station Road,
Blisworth, Northants, NN7 3DS
Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 21st February 7.30pm

IWA Milton Keynes

**Branch AGM and Talk: Canal Boatmen,
Their Origins & Development**

- Roger Squires

Royal British Legion Hall, off Melrose Ave,
West Bletchley, Bucks, MK3 6PU
Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Thursday 28th February 7.30pm

BCS - Craft Group Meeting

2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK18 8AX
Details: 01908-661217

athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Tuesday 12th March 8.00pm

IWA Northampton

**Talk: Restoration of the Stoke Bruerne
Brick Wagon**

- Keith Adams

The Walnut Tree Inn, 21 Station Road,
Blisworth, Northants, NN7 3DS
Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/northampton

Thursday 21st March 7.30pm

IWA Milton Keynes

**Talk: The Bedford & Milton Keynes
Waterways Trust**

- Jane Hamilton

Royal British Legion Hall, off Melrose Ave,
West Bletchley, Bucks, MK3 6PU
Details:

www.waterways.org.uk/miltonkeynes

Saturday 23rd March 7.00pm

BCS AGM & Social Evening

Buckingham Community Centre,
Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, Bucks,
MK18 8AX

Details:

www.buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Thursday 28th March 7.30pm

BCS - Craft Group Meeting

2 Staters Pound, Pennyland,
Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK18 8AX
Details: 01908-661217

athina.beckett@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Work Party Dates 2019

January

Thursday 10th
Sunday 13th
Thursday 24th

February

Thursday 7th
Sunday 10th
Thursday 21st

March

Thursday 7th
Sunday 10th
Thursday 21st

April

Thursday 4th
Sunday 14th
Thursday 18th

May

Thursday 2nd
Sunday 12th
Thursday 16th
Thursday 30th

June

Sunday 9th
Thursday 13th
Thursday 27th

July

Thursday 11th
Sunday 14th
Thursday 25th

August

Thursday 8th
Sunday 11th
Thursday 22nd

September

Thursday 5th
Sunday 8th
Thursday 19th

October

Thursday 3rd
Sunday 13th
Thursday 17th
Thursday 31st

November

Sunday 10th
Thursday 14th
Thursday 28th

December

Sunday 8th
Thursday 12th
Thursday 26th

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Contact the Committee

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Lee Whiting

Trustee and Plant & Equipment Manager

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Trustee

We are interested to hear from people who would like to join us as trustees.



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Illustrated Talks & Presentations

talks@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Cosgrove Festival Team

events@buckinghamcanal.org.uk

Finance Manager

This position is currently vacant

General Enquiries

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Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK15 8AX
0300 323 1350

info@buckinghamcanal.org.uk



The cost to call 0300 numbers is the same as calling a normal local or national land line. If your tariff or call package offers free or inclusive calls to landlines, numbers starting with 03 will be included in the exact same way.

Next Navigator

So we are nearing the end of another issue of the Navigator and I am sure many of you are eager for more. You can be part of what appears in the next issue. There are regular items from the committee but there is space assigned to YOU, our valued members, for your submissions. I am also always very interested to hear what you think of the newsletter and comments are most welcome!

Please submit all contributions for Issue 99 (Spring 2019) by the 1st February 2019 via email, CD, or typed/handwritten letter (in that order of preference) to:

editor@buckinghamcanal.org.uk or

Ian Matson, 63 Almnors Road, Lyne, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0BH

Advertising with us We welcome advertisements in the Navigator to assist funding. Rates are as below. Payment is required before copy date. Cheques made payable to "Buckingham Canal Society". 33% reduction for 3 issues.

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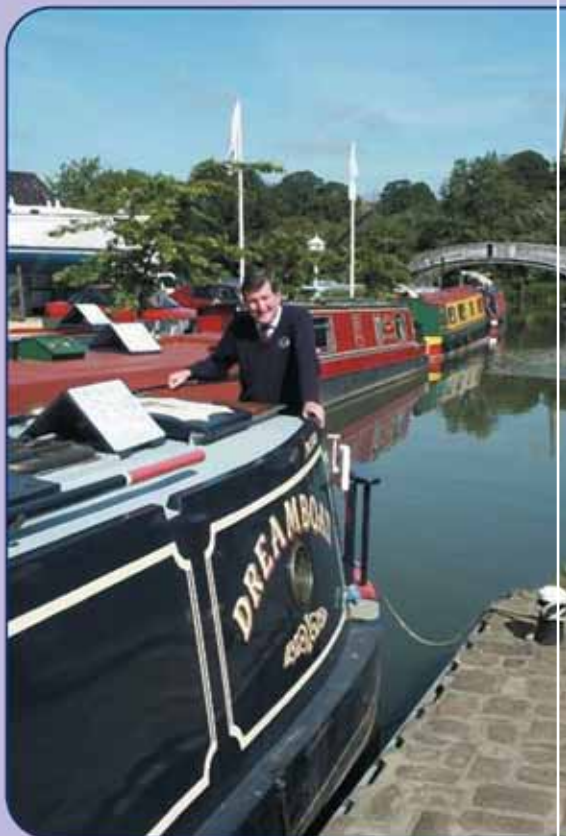
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